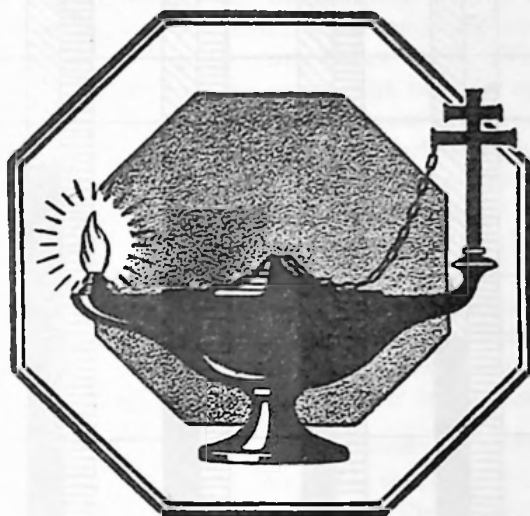


TOC H JOURNAL



FEBRUARY—MCMXLIV

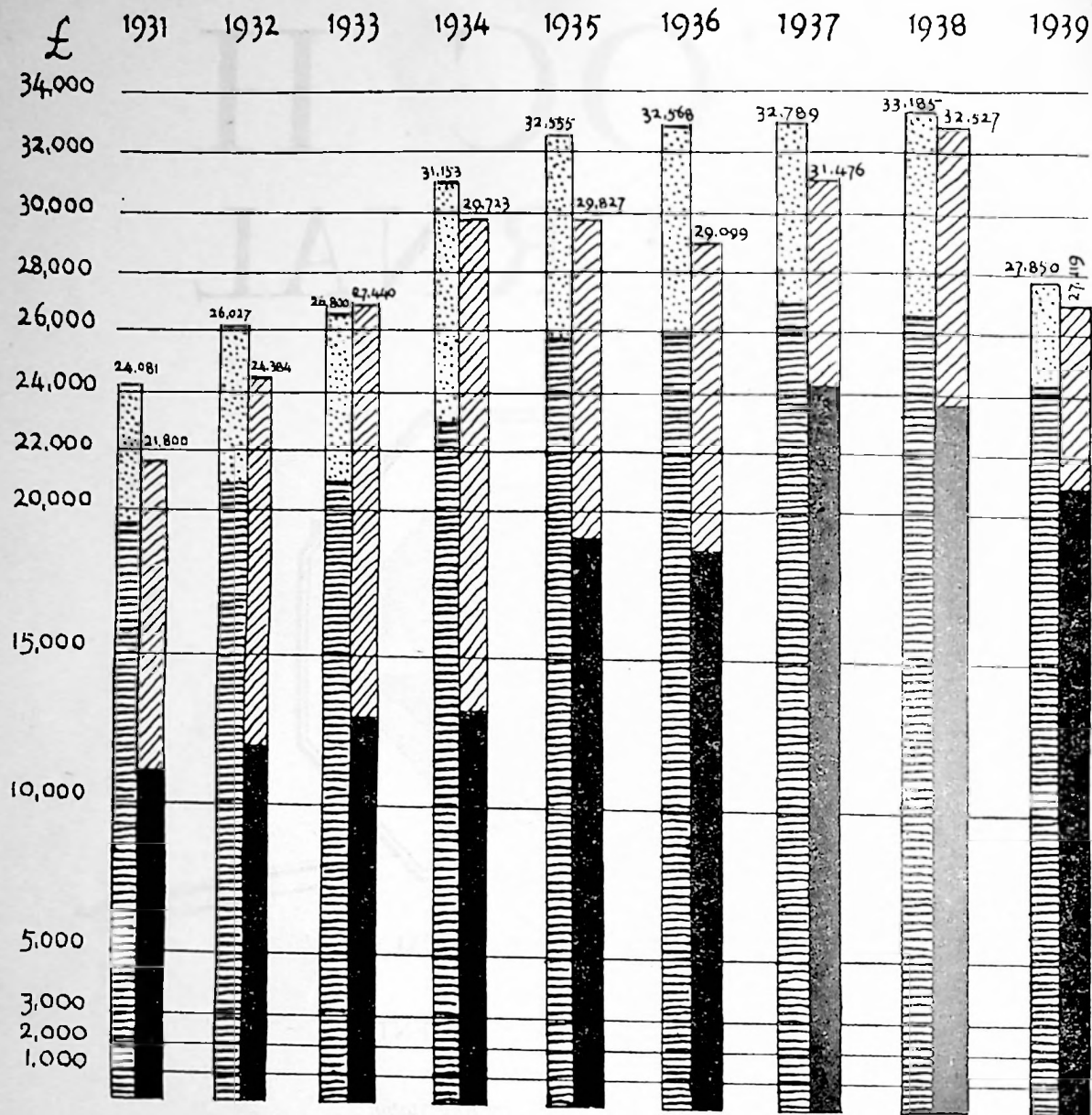
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THREEPENCE

TOC H INCOME AND EXPENDITURE, 1931-1939



EXPENDITURE

- Salaries & Travelling Exs.
- All other Expenditure

INCOME

- From the Toc H Family
- From all other Sources

NOTE.—'Income from the Toc H Family' includes Members' Subscriptions and Members' Donations, Unit Contributions, Builders' Subscriptions, Rushlight Fees and Chaplaincy Endowment revenue.

TOC H JOURNAL

VOL. XXII

FEBRUARY, 1944

No. 2

"IT ALL DEPENDS"

An Open Letter from JACK HARRISON, Chief Accountant at Toc H Headquarters.

MY DEAR FELLOW MEMBER,

There have been recent references in the JOURNAL to the problems of Family Funds and our responsibility as members for this important side of our Family life. In order to make the position a little clearer, I am setting out a few figures for your consideration and a 'pictogram' for your amusement. I want to show you the proportion which the income from members and friends of Toc H (such as Builders who subscribe regularly) has borne to the total income and expenditure year by year and "where the money goes."

I have included "friends of Toc H" with members as I hold a purely personal opinion that they are in a very real sense a part of the Toc H Family, and also that we and these our friends together can and will provide the money necessary for Toc H to do its job. I have, for convenience, called this income "income from the Family."

The pictogram shows that in 1931 the income from the Family was 49.5 per cent. of the total income for the year of £21,800 and 44.85 per cent. of the total expenditure of £24,080. The pictogram also shows a great improvement in these percentages from 1935 onwards until 1938 and 1939, when the percentages were as follows:—

Percentage of Income from Family to:—			
Income from the Family.		Total Income.	Total Expenditure.
£.		%	%
1938	... 23,800	73	72
1939	... 21,150	78	76

The answer to the question "Where does the money go?" is, I hope, made clear to you by the expenditure columns. The salaries and

travelling expenses include all salaries and wages paid to every employee of Toc H and the expenses incurred by them in the course of their duties. (I have excluded expenditure on maintaining Marks as these are, in the main, self-supporting and do not affect the picture either way). You will observe that the proportion of these expenses to the whole is fairly constant each year; in 1931 they were 81 per cent. and in 1939 87 per cent. of the total. The balance is made up almost entirely of expenses incurred in maintaining offices at Headquarters and in the Areas—rent, rates, heat, light, postages, telephones, printing, stationery, cleaning, etc., etc. These expenses are, of course, the direct result of employing staff—a man cannot work without a workshop, however inadequate it sometimes is.

Money into Man-power

We have, therefore, turned our money into man-power. Please forgive that cumbersome explanation of an obvious and simple fact, but you have been asked that question "Where does the money go?" so many times that I felt the need to state the answer. A more important problem whose answer immediately affects our "expansion programme" is the annual average cost of each member of the paid "administrative" staff. In dealing with this point, I have excluded typists and office clerks from the heading "administrative staff" on the assumption that the employment of a girl typist is usually the direct consequence of the appointment of a man to the "administrative" staff and her salary is a part of the expense involved in his appointment. I use the expression "administrative" therefore merely to differentiate between such staff as

Headquarters and Regional Officers (who are administrative staff) and all other Toc H staff. In 1938, our last fully-staffed year, we had a paid administrative staff of 60 and a total expenditure for the year of £33,185, the expenditure therefore averaged £553 per man. I estimate that under our present system of financial administration and our general organisation as we knew it before the war, the cost per head of administrative staff in Britain will be, at least, £600 per annum in post-war years. If we develop "City Centres" and reorganise in other directions, this figure will need to be revised but at present it is as reliable a guide as one can give. It means simply that for each man we appoint to the administrative staff, we shall have to find at least £600 each year to meet his salary and all other expenses arising as a consequence of his appointment.

When thinking ahead, then, and trying to visualise post-war financial needs, bear that figure in mind and, in addition, remember

that we shall need a staff no less effective than in pre-war years, numbering, I think, at least 60 men and involving an annual expenditure of £36,000; remember also that our present annual income is roughly £20,000.

Our immediate task therefore is to aim at covering the needs of the first three years of peace, for which we shall need £50,000 on top of our regular annual income (assuming that it will remain at £20,000) and, to take a longer view, our more permanent task will be to double our present income and keep it doubled.

This letter is already over-long and I must stop there, but some time the Editor may allow me to make one or two suggestions to help in dealing with this problem and, in the meantime, perhaps you would like to discuss ways and means with your friends. The solution is simple enough in theory, but in practice *it all depends on you and me* and on just how much we care for Toc H.

Yours, J. H.

REMEMBERING THE OLD HOUSE

IN spite of early reports to the contrary our good stewards in Poperinghe have reported the survival of the Old House in every message we have received from them. This is fully supported by official enquiry which the Foreign Office was asked to make. The Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs writes to our Headquarters:

"In reply to an enquiry which His Majesty's Legation at Berne were requested to make regarding the present condition of the original Talbot House at Poperinghe in Belgium, which was reported to have been destroyed in 1940, the Swiss authorities state that the Swiss Consul at Brussels, who approached the Burgomaster of Poperinghe, has ascertained from him that the property in question was slightly damaged during the month of May, 1940, and by order of the occupation authorities the damage was repaired by the Town of Poperinghe, the house being subsequently requisitioned by the German army, which still occupies it. The Burgomaster of Poperinghe also states that as the building is occupied by the German military authorities it is impossible to ascertain its actual condition. . . ."

Members must hope that the 'Second Front' will spare the Old House till the great day of deliverance, and that some of us will share in the 'homecoming.'

Belgium celebrates our Birthday

On December 17 a charming event took place at the Belgian Institute in London. The Belgian Minister of Justice and of Information, M. Antoine Delfosse, a good friend of Toc H, 'threw a party' to commemorate the opening of Talbot House in December, 1915. A good many 'old-timers' were present, including members from Toc H Brussels, Charleroi and Paris. Sir Lancelot Oliphant, British Ambassador to Belgium at the outbreak of war and now to the Belgian Government in London, was there and a number of other distinguished Belgian and British guests. Our host, the Belgian Minister, spoke in English and then, discarding his notes, made a most eloquent and moving speech in French about Anglo-Belgian friendship, sealed by the sacrifice of the Elder Brethren of our two countries. Harry Willink, then newly appointed Minister of Health, replied, as an 'old sweat' from the Ypres battlefield and a Foundation member from Talbot House. These speeches were followed by a delightful 'variety entertainment.'

TOC H BEHIND THE WIRE—IV.

THE initials 'B.E.F.' almost have an old-fashioned ring about them, but we all believe that their story is far from finished. Toc H was cradled in the British Expeditionary Force in 1915. It had a modest share in its hard fortunes in 1940. It is now preparing to play whatever part is given to it in the next chapter—and that may begin at any moment in the next few weeks or months.

Readers of the JOURNAL know such facts as could be pieced together at a very dangerous and confused time concerning the Toc H effort on the Continent in 1940. The start then made was very different in its conditions—but not in its spirit—from those in Talbot House, Poperinghe, in the last war. Instead of a fixed point of light, the Old House, in a crowded rest-area close to the battle which swayed to and fro round Ypres for four years, the pioneers of Toc H in 1940 found themselves in a large area where troops were widely scattered and extremely mobile, and where there were scarcely any fixed points or certain boundaries. It was at the time a 'phoney' war, where nothing seemed to be happening; when it did happen, it was sudden and all over for them in a few days. Instead of one man, Tubby in chaplain's uniform (more or less), a world-wide movement was represented by two teams of men, wearing uniform with the black and yellow 'flash' of Toc H on their shoulders and the bronze badge of the Lamp of Maintenance on cap and tunic-lapel. For Toc H, with twenty years of peace-time service behind it, was now one of the eight societies accredited by the War Office 'Council of Voluntary War Work' (C.V.W.W.) with voluntary welfare for the troops.

The original pioneers were Rex Calkin (General Secretary), Pat Leonard (Vicar of Hatfield, one of the pioneers of the 'rebirth' of Toc H from 1919 at Cheltenham and Manchester, then at Headquarters as Chief Overseas Commissioner and as Administrative Padre), and Grahame Hamilton ('The Dean,' a very senior member of the boys' club team in Bermondsey and, among other useful qualities, an admirable French scholar). These

were reinforced soon after the start by Reg Staton (Staff Pilot at Sheffield in early days, in charge of Red House at Leeds and in other places, and in 1939 Warden at Southampton of one of the earliest of our Services Clubs), and a little later by Brian Bonham-Carter (a retired Lt.-Col. and a member of Toc H in India), Hugh Pilcher (especially interested in the Toc H Leprosy effort) and Austen Williams (the young curate of a former Area Padre of Toc H, 'Appy'). These seven men found themselves together in North-Eastern France, began operations in Lille and planned the opening of several other Clubs further South and West. A second team, consisting of Ben Dakin and Norman Macpherson (two Staff Padres), Warwick Jackson (who later served with Toc H in Iceland) and Jock Steel and his wife (who only got on to the ground in time to be evacuated again) opened a fine House at Rouen, which was very soon overwhelmed by the German advance. They all reached home, after many adventures, but their story is not the concern of this article.

Pat Leonard and 'The Dean,' whose time was strictly limited, did indispensable service in the first stages and returned to England—just in time to miss the catastrophe. The other five members of the Lille team stuck to their job gamely; they finally left too late and were made prisoners of war. One of them, Reg Staton, has recently been repatriated, owing to the serious condition of his eyesight, and his narrative has just been set down for JOURNAL readers and now follows. For the sake of his fellow-prisoners still in Germany, a number of interesting details have had to be omitted.—EDITOR.

The Staff in France and Germany

I BEGIN to write on New Year's Day. Four years ago to-day I was at work in our Club at Southampton and wondering, as I mixed with our guests—on their way to the B.E.F.—how long it would be before I was allowed to join them overseas. My suspense was broken a few days later by a letter from Head-

quarters telling me to prepare to proceed to a port on the East Coast and await further instructions. On February 27 I was on my way to Northern France and next evening found myself in the company of Rex, Pat and 'The Dean.' Rex was rather taken aback that I had taken a route, boat and train contrary to his instructions. But I admit to a pleasant feeling that this was typical of Toc H, which goes by various ways to reach the same place in the end.

Our House in Lille

Next day I was taken to the House in Lille and delighted to find it as near to a home in England as was possible. The excellent work of the small team had produced all the furniture and fittings needed for us to act as hosts on behalf of the whole family of Toc H. Later that morning I met Mrs. Gudgeon, the Consul's wife, who became a great ally in providing domestic staff and dealing with their problems. We were also busy collecting a fine team of ladies of the British colony in Lille—Mrs. Gudgeon, Mrs. Harrison, Mrs. Lane, Mrs. Norman and Miss Crothers. Our guests were thrilled to meet these Englishwomen: "Blimey, mate," a man would exclaim, "they speak English!" To these were added Mr. Crothers and Mr. Lane, who did yeoman service.

The opening of the House was very simple. At 7 a.m. we had a Celebration in the Chapel. At 2 p.m. two Tommies were brought in for a cup of tea—out of a teapot (we have always disliked urns), which reminded them of home. Then they were taken on a tour of the House and found the English touch everywhere—in the lounge, with its many easy chairs and small tables, carpets and flowers and one of the English ladies to welcome them; the Chapel with its furnishings, mostly given by Pat's congregation at Hatfield; the six bedrooms, with their spring beds, clean sheets and carpeted floors; the bathrooms and showers, the reading and writing and wireless rooms. "The House is yours to do as you wish, make yourself at home," was our approach. It took a little time for the troops

in large numbers to know it, but once they had tasted they came back. On certain days of the week it was soon crowded; on our slack days men billeted locally kept us busy enough.

Most of our supplies came from N.A.A.F.I. but we brought fresh pasties, bread, ham, butter, etc., from the local shops. These French people appreciated our habit of paying 'on the nail' and we made friends with them, inviting them in turn to a real Yorkshire 'spread' at tea-time. In return they presented us with large bunches of flowers. Once the local architect's wife sent a huge fern, in a pot all dressed up with a large white bow, for the Chapel—rather embarrassing, but we had to accept it so as not to cause offence. A few days later a big bunch of roses arrived for my room. I got over it all right and am still alive to tell the tale.

Padres' conferences and Quiet Days were held in the House from time to time. And our friends of the E.N.S.A. concert parties came in often for morning coffee—they liked the English atmosphere. Many a well-known staff officer visited us and we were proud of our Visitors' Book, which had to be left behind later.*

Time went on, and 'The Dean' had to leave us. All of us missed him greatly, for his knowledge of France (and French dishes!) was marvellous, and we owed a great deal to his help with local trades folk and domestic problems. Then Hugh Pilcher arrived. His energy for a man of 60 was superb. We soon made friends with the representatives of other societies, especially with Padre Sheppard of the Church Army, who ran a canteen near by. We nicknamed him 'Pop' and sometimes gave him a rough time in the discussions on things ecclesiastical or 'Mark *versus* Canteen,' when we foregathered in our lounge at the end of each day's work.

Our activities began to increase, for Rex was preparing the way for Houses in Douai, Albert and Rouen. At this stage it was decided that we needed a van for supplies and, through our friend Mr. Lane, a Renault 8 h.p. van was procured. Pat painted the Lamp and

* Major-General Sir Colin Jardine, at that time Chief of Staff to Lord Gort, C.-in-C. of the B.E.F., described such a visit, on his return after Dunkirk, to the Central Executive.—ED.

other designs on it, and we drove to the N.A.A.F.I. in a village near by. Here we soon made real friends with the staff, who came, when off duty, to give us a hand, as did many a soldier, some of them members of Toc H. I much regret that the record of their names and addresses was lost in later events. One slack evening, I remember, six Yorkshiremen turned up. One of them said "I know that man," and we found that five of them had been members of a boys' club I helped in 1922-23. There were also many who had used the Club at Southampton, and some had known our earliest Services Club to be opened in the Western Area in 1939, where I had taken my first turn at the job.

On May 4 Austen Williams arrived, quite unexpectedly. We saw at once that here was a young Padre who would soon make his presence felt, and he dropped into our team right away. I owe much to Austen in the last three and a half years, but more of that later. About the same day came Bonham-Carter, who was to assist Rex in opening the House at Douai. And then the sad day came for Pat's departure. He had indeed been "the friend and adviser of all on board," and I am more than ever convinced of the Toc H principle that padre and layman should work in double harness: each without the other misses a good bit of work.

Pat got home just in time. It was about May 15 that things began to move and the next few days were eventful. When the Germans broke through we were swamped with troops and civilians, and our time was fully occupied in dealing with all who came within reach of us. Old men, women and children, bombed out of their homes, without money or food, came to us and found shelter within the House. We fed them from the stocks we had in hand and gave them tea and coffee. We were kept at it day and night.

It was on May 18 that Austen, Hugh and I discussed the situation: we decided to carry on. Within a few minutes of this decision a lorry pulled up at our door, filled with Roman Catholic nursing sisters. One was nursing a day-old baby, while its mother was being tended by others. We supplied them with

milk, food and chocolate and sent them on their way refreshed, we hoped, to Amiens. Then a woman of 65 with a broken leg arrived, pushed by her aged husband in a wheelbarrow for at least 25 kilometres. There were many other sad cases.

The British soldiers were behaving like heroes. Some had lost their units and came to the House, where they found refreshment for body and soul. On the morning of the 19th, Austen's able hands celebrated for them in our Chapel, which was full. Fortified by this precious Food they set out again for many weary days ahead. Mrs. Harrison was with us to the last—she died upon arrival in England—and we shall remember her with proud thanksgiving as a gallant-hearted Englishwoman who won the respect of all who came in contact with her.

Retreat and Capture

It was on the morning of May 21 that Rex and Bonham-Carter arrived back from Douai to inform us that we must be ready in an hour and a half to move. The House was full of every type of soldier and civilian, to whom we had to break the sad news. I am sure that the five of us would have been willing to stay, but these were orders to be obeyed. We decided to split up. Rex, B. C. and Austen in one car were to call at the Old House in Poperinghe *en route* for Rouen; Hugh and I were to take the Renault van *via* Abbeville to Rouen, and we were to meet again in the House there, where Ben Dakin was stationed.

We left at 11 a.m. and joined the great numbers of refugees from Lille. We acted as traffic policemen for the refugees who were coming and going in every direction, horses and carts, cars, perambulators, cattle, sheep, pigs and dogs—thousands of men, women and children, looking lost and forlorn, fleeing with their small belongings from the advancing enemy.

That afternoon we arrived at St. Pol, where the car broke down. During its repair we took a snack at a café. We left there at 5.45 p.m. (the Germans were there at 6) and bore westward, some 20 kilometres, to the small village of Vieil Hesdin, where the car broke

down again—to our dismay, for we knew the Germans were close at hand. We did not know how close they were until 7.15, when the signal was given to them to advance. Tanks and motor cyclists rushed forward through the stricken refugees and cattle, mowing down all before them. Fortunately many of the civilians rushed out of their way, but many of our dumb friends met their doom. Hugh and I took refuge in a near-by farmhouse, where we remained hidden until the following day. At midday the farmer's wife asked us to leave as she was afraid the Germans would shoot her for shielding 'British officers.' There was nothing for it but to proceed up the road, where later we gave ourselves up to the commander of a German anti-aircraft battery. He spoke very good English, and told us that the Germans did not take prisoners alive. This caused a little anxiety to Hugh and myself. We argued a little. Nothing more need be said about the incident, which left us with an uneasy feeling.

After four hours' waiting the Battery drove off; we were placed on one of the gun lorries. They had only travelled a few kilometres before the guns went into action against four British planes. We were not allowed to dismount during the firing but lay on our stomachs in the lorry. It was an unpleasant feeling, and I was most concerned about Hugh, but he seemed well able to 'stick it.' We moved off again, and by the time our journey with the Battery was ended they had been in action four times.

Into Captivity

For good reasons I shall say nothing at the moment about our experiences on the way to Germany, except to mention one or two things which helped us to face what was in store for us: We had the good fortune to collect one or two British chaplains on the way, and on two occasions had Celebrations of Holy Com-

munion in an underground room of the citadel of Cambrai, which fortified us for the journey ahead. After the Communion on May 27, at which thirty-four were present, Padre J. R. Bamber, the celebrant, wrote this:

DE PROFUNDIS—EX TENEBRA LUX

Out of the depths we call to Thee, our Lord—
 Out of the depths of our captivity—
 And in the prison-house a light is lit;
 Thou com'st to us—and we all come to Thee.
 Out of the shadows glows that Light Divine,
 And all take comfort from its heat and cheer;
 And as we eat that bread and drink that wine
 All life is changed for us—for Thou art here.
 A simple army biscuit—dregs of wine—
 A rough cross fashioned from two strips of
 wood—
 A drop of water from a khaki flask—
 Thy Presence . . . and behold!
 Thy Flesh and Blood.

We travelled about from place to place in lorries, packed like sardines, through France, Belgium and Luxembourg into Germany. Our food consisted of bread and water, and I well remember an old German woman—bless her heart, for she looked ill able to afford it!—who gave us a loaf of bread, which we distributed between the thirty of us in a train.

This happened after we left Mainz, where we met Bonham-Carter. He told us of the ordeals of Rex and Austen.* There were thousands of us at Mainz, British, French, Belgian and Dutch officers and men, and it was here that the prisoners were divided and we entrained with the British officers for our permanent camp.

In an Officers' Camp

The camp, Oflag VII C/H, at Laufen on the old Austrian frontier, took three days to reach, and we arrived on June 5. After particulars had been taken and we had been searched, our hair was shaved off and it was amusing to see how snobbish we became; we cut each other until we had reintroduced ourselves. After posting to our various rooms we began to settle down and to organise acti-

* In a letter home (see JOURNAL, January, 1941), Bonham-Carter told the story briefly. Rex and Austen set out in his car with him and were captured the same day. "We stuck to the main roads to start with, *via* Bethune. We found these so full of refugees that we could make no progress. So we turned off to side roads when we were nearing St. Pol. A mistake, for the Germans were using these. We ran head-on into a motorized column. That was the end of that." After a fortnight's travelling, Rex and Austen reached Oflag IX A, and a photograph of officers there, which includes them, appeared in the JOURNAL, September, 1940. They were later moved to Oflag VII C/H and then to Ilag XIII, where all five were reunited.—ED.

vities. Some days later we were joined by officers of the 51st Division, and this brought our numbers, including some N.C.O.'s and men, who acted as orderlies, to 1,200.

Col. Holland (Wimborne Branch), Don Oliver (Croydon Branch), Padre Bamber, Cave (Bedale Branch), Simms and other members of Toc H were allowed to run community singing, on condition that we presented the songs, written out in full, and anything we were going to say to the German commandant. I had the honour of taking the Ceremony of Light and giving a short explanation of it. We held these meetings on a Sunday evening, when about 400 attended. Later on "our evening" was handed over to the newly-formed Concert Party to run—another illustration of Toc H seeing a need, meeting it and then handing over to some other body who could do it better. We then asked leave to hold regular Toc H meetings, and again this was granted on condition we submitted the programme each time to the censor, who was present for the first few meetings. When we all naturally stood up for the Ceremony of Light the Commandant's representative was included. I then submitted the Four Points of the Compass and the Main Resolution as the basis upon which we should work, and from that time the unit grew and many members were initiated during the following months.

Bonham-Carter began to organise popular talks and these soon developed into a university course on all sorts of subjects. B. C. received the title of 'Principal of Laufen University'! Lectures and study groups were held all and every day except Sunday. On Sunday we held Communion and morning services, led by the padres of whom there were more than forty in the Camp, and the evening was devoted to classical music. All these activities were well supported and almost everyone was busy most of the day.

In two Civilian Camps

In November B. C., Hugh and I left for a Civilian Internment Camp (Ilag XIII) at Wülsburg. Here we rejoined Rex and Austen and many others who had been taken in



OUR STAFF IN ILAG VIII.

Reg Staton (left), standing with Austen Williams; seated, Bonham-Carter, Rex Calkin and Hugh Pilcher.

France, Belgium, Holland, Denmark, Norway and Germany itself. We were not allowed in this camp to meet as Toc H, as it was regarded as a political organisation. The five of us, however, did various jobs in the camp until it was closed as a British civilian internment place in August, 1941.

All of us were then transferred to Ilag VIII at Tost, near Gleiwitz in Silesia, making the number in the camp up to 1,050. Here, I think, we were able to do plenty of work among the internees. Austen, as the only Anglican priest on the spot, became the Anglican Padre. He began at once to hold Communion services (these were only allowed once a month) and Evensong at 6.30 every Sunday evening. He became very popular and is known as 'Bish' (Bishop). Alongside priestly duties he is also Headmaster of the School. Rex is in charge of the Educational Books section of the camp library and leader of the Sociology Group. His advice and help in this direction is eagerly sought, and I have an idea that we shall see some of his writings when he comes home. B. C. devotes himself to 'the news' (an important item) and



ILAG VIII, FROM A WATER-COLOUR DRAWING MADE THERE BY A PRISONER OF WAR

to visiting patients in the hospital. Hugh challenges anybody to chess and bridge. He can be found any day pacing the 'Lepers Walk' in the exercise ground, ready to talk leprosy with anyone and interest them in B.E.L.R.A. My own job was in the Parcels Office, where I worked every day from 8 a.m. In the evenings I devoted myself to visiting the rooms and helping to cheer lonely prisoners. In this way (though they cheered me more, I think, than I them) I found many hundreds of friends.

I cannot allow this brief history to end without saying how much we appreciated the admirable work of the British Red Cross for prisoners of war. Apart from the magnificent supply of study books on all subjects, we received a food-parcel *regularly* each week, with

50 cigarettes or 2 ozs. of tobacco for each man. Without these supplies of food our term of imprisonment would have been hard indeed, for the German ration is very poor in quality and in quantity. Our next of kin and thousands of other friends who kept us supplied with clothing and tobacco won our gratitude. Then, too, we have to thank the family of Toc H for their loyalty to us which has enabled us to carry on at a time when the spirit of fairmindedness has been strained and when it was not easy "to disown discouragement" or "to practise thanksgiving."

I admit that imprisonment in enemy hands was a wonderful experience and I do not think I should like to have missed it. At the same time it must not occur again!

REG STATON.

'THE BOYS COME HOME'

1. Preliminary Preparations.

AT this stage of the war it can be accepted that all active members of Toc H are fully occupied and have scant time for new jobs. Many are, however, thinking ahead and wondering particularly how contact can be established with new members in the Services and others interested when they return home. Many men have made contact with Toc H away from their home towns and are unknown to their local Branch or Group and possibly in many cases there may be no Toc H unit in their town or village. Men have met Toc H in a great variety of circumstances. Some have caught a glimpse of what Toc H might mean to them, then have been posted and lost touch; others have found one facet of Toc H and are interested; or are enthusiastic but have missed the point, and so on. They will all be returning looking for Toc H. It is our job to see that they find it. It is our job to see that it is the real thing and that they are not disappointed.

Proverbially, Toc H in most places is difficult to find. We don't as a rule occupy conspicuous buildings nor make a display of our activities. Units have closed down for duration. Members have become scattered. Against this background and in spite of all sorts of difficulties, ways and means have to be devised so that a man enquiring for Toc H shall not be disappointed. Failure may lead to a man feeling he has been 'had' and killing his interest just when he needs Toc H most. Failure may mean that the family may be immeasurably poorer. Somehow we must see that we do not fail.

The names and addresses of all new members in the Services and of all passcard holders are sent, as received by Headquarters, to Areas who presumably are keeping careful lists of these and of any additional names received from other sources. If there is a Branch or Group in a man's home town the particulars should be passed on and there should be no difficulty in the unit keeping in touch with him and his home and the man making contact on his return. Where there is no unit,

the particulars should be passed to the District and the District should ask the nearest known member to be responsible for making contact and acting as a link. Such pivotal men are important, and Areas and Districts are urged to see that as many places as possible are covered in this way. They need not necessarily be members around whom a new unit would be built when the time comes, though if this is possible, so much the better. The first requirement is a link between the man returning and Toc H in the locality.

Finding Toc H

However well this system works (unfortunately systems have a habit of breaking down), something more is required. Inevitably the records in war-time are incomplete and many names are missing. In addition there will be other men, neither members nor passcard holders, who, having met Toc H during their time in the Forces, will want to know more about it on their return home. This means that particulars of Toc H should be 'findable' in every place if reasonable effort is made, whether there is a unit or not.

It is an old question that has been often raised before—how is a visitor to, say, Gobbleston, to find Toc H? He may not arrive by train. If he does he is unlikely to hang around the station on the off-chance of finding information about Toc H. Perhaps there is no railway to Gobbleston. A notice at the Post Office has been suggested and it seems a good place if permission can be obtained, but Post Offices close in the evening and are not as a rule open on Sundays. Police stations might well be acquainted with full particulars unless there is any local objection! In our village we haven't a police station but we have a fire station and nine public houses. We also have a church and a chapel. Local conditions vary and what might be an obvious place for a notice or enquiries to be made at one town might not be so suitable at another. Perhaps members may be able to suggest suggestions. What are the possibilities in your

identical place everywhere so that everyone can be told that for local information enquire at My suggestion is that we have two places to meet all contingencies: (1) the Police Station, where the information would be recorded and all policemen could take particulars in their notebooks, and (2) the Church Porch, where a notice could be conveniently displayed and there should be no difficulty in securing permission for this. If there is more than one church, then all church porches and similarly all the police stations.

Having agreed on a common place where information can always be found, the next point is so important that too much emphasis

cannot be put on it. The particulars must be kept up to date. Misleading information is far worse than no information at all. To direct a man to an incorrect address or an empty building is bound to cause disappointment and exasperation. Branches and Groups should choose the address of a member established in the town rather than, say, the Secretary's, if the latter is likely to be moving. Districts choosing pivotal men must see that alterations are quickly recorded.

How to find Toc H has often been discussed. Here is a fairly simple answer. Ask a policeman or look for the notice in the Church Porch.

D. L. R.

2. Service Members and Contacts.

Scotland has been formulating plans to link up their members in the Services and others, and IAN FRASER, Scottish Regional Secretary, makes the following suggestions.

The problem of linking up Service members and other interested people assumes greater urgency as victory draws nearer. All over the world men and women in the armed forces have come into contact with Toc H in Service Clubs, Canteens and Unit Meetings, many have accepted membership, others pass-cards, and while we have no tangible tokens in tens of thousands of other cases, it is reasonable to suppose that they represent a large body of, as yet unharnessed, goodwill.

Up to the present time our method of contact has been a simple one; so far as has been possible all new elections and new issues of pass-cards have been notified to the Services Secretary at 47, Francis Street, S.W.1, who in turn has notified the home Areas concerned and suggested a visit or some other means of contact with the member or pass-holder's home. This has not always been done for a variety of reasons, often because no unit of Toc H exists in the town or village from which the men come, or because addresses have changed in the intervening period. Apart from this means of contact, the JOURNAL has been distributed as widely as possible to keep these people in touch. In the Middle East there are many men of whom so far we have no record.

In view of all this and of the increasing urgency for linking these men up at home, some attempt at planning must be made now against the day of their return and machinery set in operation so that the ground is fully prepared to receive a maximum influx of service members and others interested immediately they return home.

Collecting Names

(1) The first need in every area is as complete a list as possible of all new members, passholders and interested persons, compiled in conjunction with the Service Clubs and Units in the Areas and the Services Secretary at 47, Francis Street, S.W.1. If each Area completes its own list, allocating the names under towns and villages, these can easily be transferred to their appropriate area, in the same way as it is done by the Services Secretary for names from overseas. These latter names can be added to the list as and when received from overseas sources. Any method can be adopted to compile the list, the main thing being that as complete a list as possible should be available in every area in the country.

(2) Each Area having completed its list and allocated the names under towns and

villages must then consider the best methods of linking up locally. In those places where a Toc H unit exists an attempt should be made to maintain personal touch with the family by some means and by letter with the man or woman away from home; careful check should be kept of the person's movements so that not only is contact maintained but in the event of anyone coming home on leave they can be invited to meet the local membership.

Where no local unit exists it is suggested that some such scheme as envisaged in Appendix I be formulated.

(3) District Teams should receive a complete list of names from their Area Headquarters from time to time and formulate a local policy, so that all names are covered, particular attention being paid to those in towns or villages where no Toc H unit exists.

(4) Area Executives should strive to provide additional help for District Teams in this work and co-ordinate a general policy throughout their areas. (*See Appendix I*).

DEMobilISATION AND TRANSITION

No one can tell when the war will end or when demobilisation will begin but it is reasonable to assume that demobilisation will be a protracted process with many dangers brought about by war weariness, delay and irresponsibility. In view of this it will probably be necessary for Toc H to maintain many of its present Service Clubs for a considerable time during the period of demobilisation. These Clubs, while maintaining their present canteen work, will have to attempt further work to meet the altered needs of the period of transition from service to civilian life.

Some of these needs may be:

(1) The provision every evening of a *programme of thought and work* to (a) maintain morale, (b) discuss the pressing needs of personal and social adjustment, (c) make contact with local opportunities for active social work in youth clubs, reconstruction agencies, etc. (d) act as an advice bureau for personal difficulties and problems. (*See Appendix II*).

(2) The provision of opportunities for the serving of an apprenticeship in Toc H and

the building up of effective contact with home towns and units so that potential and other membership will be linked up immediately it arrives in its home town or village, when it leaves the Club.

(3) At certain large demobilisation centres it may be necessary for Toc H to *open new clubs* for the period of demobilisation to perform the above functions.

(4) Units will also have to attempt to meet some of the needs enumerated above in their own localities and this may involve them in having their *rooms open every evening* with someone present to meet visitors. While it may not be possible or necessary to have a programme and activities every evening, something more than one unit meeting night each week may be necessary; additional meetings, however informal should be purposeful.

Programmes of thought and work will have to be prepared carefully and adjusted to meet the exceptional and often fundamentally altered needs of people in the transitional period. (*See Appendix II*).

Appendix I

Many people have become members or pass-holders from home towns where no unit of Toc H exists or where the unit is defunct; these people present a special problem as they might quite easily drift away from Toc H on their return home unless they can be linked up in some effective way. It is suggested, therefore, that some or all of the following steps be taken to prevent this occurring.

(a) *As soon as possible.*

1. In those towns and villages where a unit formerly existed it is highly probable that one or more members continue to live there. These members (if suitable) should be approached and asked to act as local correspondents for the town, keeping in touch continuously so far as is practicable with the serving members and their homes on the one hand and the nearest District team or Area office on the other.

2. Where no unit existed formerly, some suitable local resident should be approached by District teams, Area execu-

tives and/or staff; whichever of these has the best means of approach, to act in a similar capacity as in 1. above.

Both these methods would retain the nucleus of a local organisation suitable for development at a later date.

(b) *Subsequently.*

Area Executives and District Teams should as far as is possible plan to be ready to start units as and when the men return home.

This will demand a knowledge of local conditions, possibilities of local service and meeting places, etc. Much of this information could be gleaned from the local correspondents.

District teams and Area Executives should begin preparing teams of men now, ready to act as "flying squads" in their Districts or Areas; these will, in co-operation with local correspondents, be prepared to call and speak at meetings and generally assist to bring together the returning men in regular units. This will prevent any dangerous loss of time as and when demobilisation occurs and any consequent drifting away because of lack of local organisation.

Appendix II

Programmes of thought and work in both Service Clubs and Units will present difficulties and some attempt should be made to envisage both difficulties and possibilities now.

In the first place the ordinary unit programme which has been carried on during the war cannot be regarded either as the only or even the normal approach to Toc H. Nor on the other hand can the programme of Service Units and Clubs be regarded in a similar light. Neither contain, nor are they likely to contain, the "whole law and the prophets." The possibilities of friction between the two points of view is obvious.

The primary necessity in formulating programmes is to recognise that, in the period of transition, the process of the personal adjustment of men to changed and rapidly changing conditions, to changed objectives and to release from the strain of war will raise an incalculable number of personal and social problems all demanding answers.

Toc H must provide a place where these things can be thrashed out in the light of its family principles and this must be a first charge on our time. It is suggested, therefore, that some attempt be made to think out what these difficulties are likely to be; they can be grouped roughly as follows:—

- (1) *Problems of personal adjustment* to family, home, job or lack of it, etc.
- (2) *Problems of social adjustment.* Employment, housing, education and social security, etc.
- (3) *Problems of national and international adjustment.* The rehabilitation of Europe, the peace treaties, war and the future, etc.

Programmes formulated with this background in mind should always have an infinite diversity of approach to all problems and at the same time provide the practical means to subsequent action. In this connection it would be well to discover what the Serving Member is discussing in Circles, Clubs and Camps overseas at present, so that concentration can proceed at points of maximum interest and so that programmes can be widely related to men's real interests.

The practical means to action must also be planned, as many men come in on social service grounds and will not be held by mere talk; apart from this, Toc H surely expresses its belief in this way.

Units and Service Clubs in the transitional period must provide the means whereby this expression can take place, and while in the Clubs men may only stay for short periods they must be given the opportunity to take part in practical social work during their stay.

Toc H must therefore arrange for men to have opportunities to take part locally in youth, reconstruction, political, religious and other forms of social work. From digging over bombed sites for community gardens to assuming major responsibility for social action, opportunities as diverse as possible must be provided.

Relationships with all working social agencies should be established so that every man can find the means of expressing his belief in action.



This drawing by HANSLIP FLETCHER of All Hallows Church as it appears today was published in the Sunday Times of January 9 and is here reproduced by courtesy of the Editor. The church is seen from the South-west, across the ruins of Great Tower Street, in which New June, the first House of Toc H (Women's Section), once stood. On the right the Tower of London is exposed to view. The unsightly Mazawattee building at the East end of the church, already scheduled for demolition under the Tower Hill Improvement Scheme, is now burnt out and partly destroyed. The tower of the Port of London Authority building on Tower Hill is seen to the left of All Hallows.

PROGRESS IN INDIA

The World Chain of Light

All the Family knows that the World Chain of Light was started on December 11, the Birthday of Talbot House, from Madras. We have now received a short but comprehensive report of the event by airgraph from J. C. Davis, Chairman of the South India Region. He writes:

"The World Chain celebrations were very successful and impressive. The Commissioner, Alan Cowling, assisted by the Warden, Ben Habberton, lit the Goschen Lamp at 9 p.m. on December 11 in the little Chapel of Talbot House. It was crowded to overflowing. The House Padre conducted a short service, with intercessions for India. The vigil (for twenty-four hours) followed and the programme was kept. Soldiers, padres, business-men, Government officials, British, Anglo-Indian and Indian Christians all took part. A veteran American missionary was responsible for the U.S.A. hour, the American Consul for the 'Forces in the Pacific,' and a missionary from Burma for that hour. Units in South India were

well represented, in spite of war-time travelling restrictions and difficulties. Members from Palamcottah, Madras, Trichinopoly, Coimbatore, Kolar, Ootacamund, Bangalore and also from Bombay were present. Vigils were also kept at Bombay and Calcutta. Cowling received the Light back at 9 p.m. on Sunday. Tubby cabled welcome greetings.

The South India Region Executive took the opportunity of the presence of visiting delegates to arrange a Conference on Toc H problems. It began with lunch on Saturday and continued until 7 p.m. John Callf, a member of your Home staff, now an officer in a Punjab Regiment, was present. It was a very useful Conference. All the celebrations roused enthusiasm here and will stimulate Toc H activity in South India."

From further North

Sergt. Don Lucas, R.A.F., in an airgraph to H.Q. says he had just met Alan Cowling on a visit to give the Viceroy personally some details of Toc H work and plans in India. A warm letter about Toc H work and our

Commissioner from Lord Wavell himself has since reached Harry Willink, Minister of Health, our late Chairman. Don Lucas goes on:

"Toc H is spreading rapidly around this neighbourhood and two new Services units have just been formed. Last evening (November 24) we held our Birthday Festival, with a service of Rededication. It was a most impressive evening, and about 70 fellows were present. This weekend there is a Toc H Convention at Lahore, and I hope to be present. There is plenty of activity out here in the Toc H world, and it certainly means a lot to us fellows, because, socially, our lives are restricted in this strange land."

On the Burma Front

Nowhere is the land so "strange" or Service men's lives so "restricted" as on the Burma Front, and Toc H at home is doing its utmost to send out men and equipment for service with the South East Asia Command. This is likely to be very different work from that of our established Services Clubs at Home or elsewhere overseas. It will have to be mobile, following the fighting men as closely as can be permitted. A start has been made, of which Alan Cowling sends home a first account:

"The project at Elephant Point (*on the Burmese coast, between Chittagong and Akyab*) has excited great interest in the Services. The idea that a

welfare organisation could and would go so near to a 'front line,' had not seemed possible, but the very point of the show is its nearness, for it will give to 120 officers and men the chance of a 48- or 72-hour break in the very midst of operations, with clean sheets on beds, good food, lots of bathing and so on for refreshment of body, mind and spirit. . . . Some 20 huts are being built to our specifications from bamboo cut from the surrounding jungle, and, though terrific difficulties are being encountered in the way of getting supplies, transport for the furniture, etc., bought over here, the speed in erection has beaten normal Indian timings by weeks and next week it will actually open. It will, of course, only have a 'dry weather' life of some five months until the next monsoon, but some thousands of men, Army and R.A.F., will pass through. We have had splendid help from the authorities in every way, for they caught on to the scheme. It has caught the imagination properly and the lads are expressing joy that Toc H is to be with them in their 'thin' times as well as back at the base leave-centres. But you cannot imagine the organisation required, the priorities to be sought, in such areas forward, and the difficulties of getting menial staff to work up there. I'll heave a sigh of relief when it actually is functioning! You'll hear more about this place soon, I promise you. The cost has been less than the original estimate owing to availability of military supplies in some directions."

John Tatum is in charge, with Arthur Servante alongside him, while Gerald Minus is handling the Indian staff. All of us will send our best wishes to them on the start of what may prove a very stirring chapter in Toc H history.

Congratulations

To DUDLEY MATHEWS (Adelaide), Vice-President of Toc H South Australia on receiving the O.B.E. "for service to charitable and patriotic movements."

To SYDNEY OSBORNE (Dunton Green), Staff-

Sergt., R.A., on the award of the B.E.M. for gallantry in the Middle East.

To VICTOR C. ROBINSON (Stourbridge), Signaller, R.N.P.S., on the award of the B.S.M.

THE ELDER BRETHREN

BALL.—Killed in action, RONALD BALL, a member of Poplar Branch. Elected 25.1.39.

BANTON.—Missing at sea on January 7, 1943, since presumed killed, JOHN BANTON, a member of the General Branch.

DAWSON.—Missing, believed killed after a raid on Germany, W. W. DAWSON, R.A.F., a member of Kendal Branch. Elected 1.1.40.

GROVE.—In November, WILLIAM EDWARD URE GROVE, Jobmaster of Devizes Branch.

MOORE.—On active service in October, PETER J. MOORE, aged 22, Sergt. Wireless Operator and Rear Gunner, R.A.F., a member of Wetherby Group.

TANCRED.—On December 9, Vice-Admiral J. C. TANCRED, a member of Exmouth Branch. Elected 22.1.31.

OUTTERSIDE.—In November, DAVID OUTTERSIDE, aged 48, a member of Ilkley Branch. Elected 25.11.39.